

As just examples, the information conveyed by the mark may be a company name, a trademark, the month and year of manufacture of the belt, a lot number, a grade, etc. For purposes of generic representation, the mark 32 in Fig. 1 is identified throughout as "ABC".

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

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1. (amended) A method of providing a mark on a power transmission belt having a body with a length and exposed laterally spaced side surfaces, said method comprising the step of:

altering at least one of the laterally spaced side surfaces by forming a mark directly on the at least one laterally spaced side surface.

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are currently pending in the application. Claims 21-35 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Japanese Patent Publication No. 10252833A (Japan '833) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,103,349 (Matsumoto). Claims 3-20 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as obvious over Japan '833 in view of Matsumoto, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,997,994, to Andrews et al (Andrews). Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-20 is requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Charles for the courtesies extended him during the interview on September 18, 2002. During the interview, the cited prior art was discussed in detail. Further, the amendments as now made to claim 1 were discussed. The Examiner agreed that claim 1, as presented herein, patentably distinguishes from the prior art of record. The remaining claims 2-20 depend cognately from claim 1 and recite further significant limitations to further distinguish over the cited art.